Agreement with Nepal

303. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with the Prime Minister of Nepal during his recent visit to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the overall financial implications for India including commitments for the current financial year;

(c) whether any conditionalities are proposed to be imposed while agreeing to provide financial aid in view of the continuing militant and terrorist activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No agreement was signed with the Prime Minister of Nepal during his recent visit to India.

(b) However, in a Joint Press Statement issued at the conclusion of the visit, Government of India, *inter alia*, expressed its willingness to extend immediately a one-time grant of Rs. 100 crores to the budget of Government of Nepal; offered a soft credit line of US $100 million for the execution of infrastructure development projects; enhanced its 'Aid to Nepal' budget for the current financial year from 65 crore to Rs. 150 crore; and waived the dues outstanding as on June 9, 2006 owed by the Government of Nepal to the Government of India on account of defence purchases.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Bollywood show in Karachi

304. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheduled Bollywood show in Karachi, Pakistan for raising fund for the October, 2005 earthquake victims was cancelled due to visa denial especially to a renowned poet script-writer;

(b) if so, whether any efforts have been made to sort out the problem; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) According to media reports, the scheduled Bollywood show in Karachi, Pakistan, for raising funds for the victims of the earthquake of October, 2005, was cancelled due to the denial of visa to a renowned poet and script writer of India.

(b) and (c) In the framework of the Composite Dialogue, India has proposed to Pakistan that a liberal visa regime be established for cultural and literary personalities. India has been implementing such a liberal visa policy unilaterally.

F-16 Fighter Planes to Pakistan

†305. SHRI MOTILAL VORA
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has decided to give eighteen F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan;

(b) whether it is a fact that America would also upgrade 34 old aeroplanes in the fleet of F-16 planes of Pakistan;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has used its fighter planes against India only; and

(d) if so, whether Government have lodged its protest with America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has notified the US Congress on 28 June, 2006 of a possible sale of 36 F-16C/D Block 50-52 Aircraft. The DSCA has also notified its intention of a possible supply of 60 F-16A/B Mid-Life Update Modification kits and Falcon Star Structured Service Life Enhancement Kits with associated equipment and services.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.